THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, May 12, 1806.

INSTANCES *of* EARLY PROFICIENCY.

AVICENNA, born at Borhara, at ten years understood human sciences and the alkoran, and went through all the encyclopedia before 18, in which time he slept not one whole night, and minded nothing but reading.—Hortingar.

Torquato Tasso spoke plain at six months old; at three years went to school; at seven he understood Latin and Greek, and made verses; before twelve he finished his course of rhetoric, poetry, logic, and ethics; at seventeen received his degrees in philosophy, laws, and divinity, and printed his "Rinaldo."

Grotius, at eight years old, made verses, and performed his public exercises in philosophy; before fifteen he put forth his commentary upon Martianus Capella; at sixteen he pleaded causes, and at seventeen he put forth his commentary upon Aratus.

Calvin printed his institutions before he was twenty-five.

Tostatus learned all the liberal sciences without being taught, and writ, in the forty years he lived, as much as most in that time can read; and yet, at the same time, he was counsellor to the king, refendary major of Spain, and professor of philosophy, divinity, and law, in Salamanca.

Monsieur Pascal, observing the sound of an earthen dish at table, inquired the reason, and presently after wrote a treatise concerning sounds, at about eleven years of age; at twelve he read and comprehended Euclid's Elements with great facility, without any master; at sixteen, he composed a treatise on conics; at nineteen, he invented that instrument in arithmetic, now in print.

Queen Elizabeth wrote a good hand before she was four years old, and understood Italian, for there are letters extant, written by her in that language to Queen Jane, when she was with-child, in which she subscribed daughter, &c.

Ex. Mss. RALPH THORESBY, Esq.

INSTANCES *of* EXTRAORDINARY MEMORY.

HORTENSIUS, sitting at Rome, in the market-place, for a whole day together, recited, in order, all the things that were sold there; their price, and the names of the buyers.

Lucius Lucullus, a great captain and philosopher, was able to give a ready account of all affairs at home and abroad. Cicero commends Hortensius's memory for words; Lucullus's for things.

J. Lipsius offered in the presence of a German prince thus:—Sit here with a poignard, and if, in repeating of Tacitus all over, I shall miss but one word, stab me, and I will freely open my breast to strike at.

Joseph Scaliger in two days committed all Homer to his memory.

Dr. Reynolds excelled in this way to the astonishment of all who were intimately acquainted with him, not only for St. Augustine's works, but also for classical authors.

Muretus tells us of a young man of Corsica, student in the civil law, at Padau, who would repeat 36,000 Latin, Greek, or barbarous words, significant or insignificant, upon once hearing, without any hesitation, in what order soever a person pleased. Muretus says he made trial of him himself several times, and avers it to be true.

Ex. Mss. RALPH THORESBY, Esq.

MEMOIRS *of* LORD COLLINGWOOD.

HIS lordship is descended from a very respectable family in the county of Northumberland, and having devoted himself, at a very early period of his life, to the naval service of his country, was, after passing through the customary years of probation in the subordinate capacities of midshipman, or petty officer, raised to the rank of lieutenant, on the 17th of June, 1775. The truth of the ancient and just proverb, "that the temper, the ability, and general habits of life, may almost without exception be discovered by enquiring closely into the character of those with whom a man associates," has rarely, perhaps, been more strongly exemplified than in the present instance. Mr. Collingwood having been ordered on the Jamaica station,

station, at the commencement of the dispute with North America, became in some measure associated in service with the late Lord Viscount Nelson: a casual acquaintance quickly ripened into the closest intimacy; and if, from the want of an opportunity of exertion, his virtues, his talents, and his general merits had still continued obscured from the world, it could by no means be considered a slender proof of his intrinsic worth, that he acquired the confidence and esteem of so great an officer.

It is a circumstance too singular to be passed over without remark, that although the necessities of public service very frequently completely separate the most intimate friends, and prevent those, whose inmost thoughts are known to each other, from being joined in the public duty required of them by their country, the case was far different in the instance of Captain Collingwood: he was repeatedly employed on the same station with his friend Nelson, and the continuance of their intimacy cemented their hearts together in ties of the closest friendship. When Nelson was promoted to the rank of post-captain in the navy [by commission bearing date June 17th, 1779, appointing him to the Hinchinbrook, of 28 guns], we believe Mr. Collingwood to have succeeded him as commander of the Badger sloop of war; but this commission was not confirmed by the admiralty board, 'till the commencement of the ensuing year. He remained in this station a very short time; for, on the 22d of March, 1780, he was raised to the rank of post-captain, and appointed, according to some accounts, to the Pelican of twenty-four guns; but these are erroneous: the ship he took post in, was the Pomona frigate, though he very soon afterwards removed from thence into the Pelican.

During the time he held the command of this ship, he had the good fortune to fall in with a large French privateer called Le Cerf, mounting sixteen guns, and manned with a chosen crew of one hundred and twenty men. This vessel had been fitted out from Aux Cays, and the capture of it was rendered particularly gratifying and valuable, first, from the circumstance of her having, although she had been out of port two days only, taken the Blandford, a ship belonging to Glasgow, very richly laden, after a very gallant action of three hours continuance; and secondly, because the privateer was considered one of the fastest sailing vessels belonging to the enemy in those seas. There was moreover an additional circumstance, which must have made this success peculiarly gratifying to Captain Collingwood. The commander and crew of Le Cerf, irritated at the spirited defence made by the Blandford, though of inferior force, had, on boarding the prize, behaved with the greatest inhumanity; cutting and mangling the crew, and particularly the captain himself, with all the savage barbarity of enraged

pirates; instead of displaying the true characteristic of a brave foe, who never fails to treat his vanquished enemy with kindness and respect.

Captain Collingwood was unfortunately destined to be deprived of his ship by one of those dreadful convulsions of nature which occasionally take place in the West Indies. It was, however, rendered less aggravating from the circumstances of the whole crew, four persons excepted, being providentially saved, although the vessel herself was totally wrecked on the Morant Keys.

An account of this terrible disaster was transmitted in a private letter from a correspondent on the spot when it took place:—"Yesterday afternoon a severe storm of wind, attended with heavy and incessant showers of rain, came on, and continued all the night; the wind shifted to all points of the compass, and there is reason to apprehend much damage has been done, as well on the land as on the water. Several trees in and about this town are blown down, and we hear that a ship has been driven from her anchor at Port Royal, and beat to pieces; that three others have been forced on shore near Port Henderson; and that most of the plantain boats, and other small craft, in both Kingston and Port Royal harbours are overset or sunk.

"About eight o'clock on Wednesday evening, a hard gale of wind came on from the southward; but soon after veered to different points of the compass: before nine it encreased to a perfect hurricane, and continued to rage with unabating fury, 'till near eleven, the greatest part of the time blowing from the south-east, accompanied by an heavy and incessant rain; nor did the fury of the storm altogether subside, 'till about two o'clock in the morning; the distressed situation of the shipping in the harbour, may be better conceived than described; seventy-three sail of vessels, including sloops, schooners, and shallops, were on shore between Russel's hulk and the wharf of John Vernon, Esq. and Co. and several others to the westward of the town; but being mostly light vessels, the greatest part of them either have been, or will be got off, though not without considerable damage. The water in the harbour is supposed to have risen between four and five feet perpendicular; the planking of the wharfs in general being torn up, and many heavy articles that were upon them entirely carried away; of Messrs. Law and Hargrave's wharf, scarce the vestiges remain. The greatest part of the returned fleet being at Port Royal, the account from thence is still more deplorable; two loaded vessels being either sunk or overset, and twenty-four run ashore between Salt Ponds and the Mosquito Point, of which the following is the correctest list we have been able to obtain, viz.

"The

" The Green Island, Watt; Carnatic, Gibbons; Mary, Friswell; John, Watson; Thetis, Hardy; Jamaica (late Greensby); Mentor, Whitesides; Jamaica, Hurst; Orange Bay, Ross; London, Peck; Henry, Logan; Montague, Casey; Arundel, Man; George and John, Dears; Chambers, Langley; Hope, Simes; Dispatch, Trowers; Friendship, Ronaldson; Nancy, Fame; Nancy, ———; Fame, Eaton; True Briton, Stewart; Clarendon, Jordan; Lark, Bathurst; and Speed, Rowe.

" Many houses and piazzas in this town were thrown down, and two negroes drowned in the streets, in which torrents of water, for several hours, ran down with great rapidity. The number of lives that have been lost cannot at present be ascertained, but doubtless must be very great; in one plaintain boat only, nine persons perished, as did the crew of the Ruby's boat at Port Royal, in endeavouring to assist a vessel in distress, soon after the storm came on. Should this severe stroke have been general throughout the island, the consequences must be terrible indeed; it is, however, to be hoped, it will prove only a partial visitation, and that the leeward parishes in particular, which so recently suffered by a like dreadful calamity, may in the present instance have experienced the protecting hand of providence; the rivers, in general, are certainly out, as neither the windward, leeward, or north-side mails were arrived at nine o'clock yesterday evening.

" From Spanish Town we learn, that the new bridge over the Rio Cobre at that place had received some damage; but which has already been repaired, and is now passable as usual. His majesty's ship Southampton, after having had an engagement with a French frigate off Cape Francois, was by the last storm dismasted, and driven to Wreck Riff, to the leeward of Port Royal, where she now remains; the Vaughan and several other vessels are gone to her assistance.

" It is reported, that two flags of truce, which sailed from Port Royal on Wednesday, have been lost, and that all the people on board one of them perished; but this we hope will prove to be void of foundation."

Captain Collingwood returned to England not long after this melancholy disaster; and at the close of the year 1782, he was appointed to the Sampson, of 64 guns, which had just then returned from the expedition sent, under Lord Howe, to relieve and reinforce the garrison of Gibraltar, and which was ordered to be fitted for foreign service. The cessation of hostilities, however, soon terminated this command; but in the year 1784, we find him captain of one of the ships kept in commission on the peace establishment, on the West-India station; we believe, the Mediator, of 44 guns. Here it was that the former existing intimacy between Lord Nelson and himself, became

came again renewed, if possible with encreasing warmth. The genuine principles of friendship, and an almost brotherly affection, have never perhaps been more strongly pourtrayed, than in the frequent mention made by his lordship of Collingwood, in the letters written by him to his old friend and preceptor, the late Lieutenant-governor Locker.

The following passages are copied from Lord Nelson's letters to Lieutenant-governor Locker:

"Collingwood is at Grenada, which is a great loss to me, for there is nobody I can make a confidant of."——"Coll desires me to say, he will write you soon such a letter, that you will think it an history of the West-Indies. What an amiable good man he is! all the rest are geese."——Collingwood recommends ——, he says you ought to marry her; what a charming good man! he is a valuable member of society."——"This station has not been over pleasant; had it not been for Collingwood, it would have been the most disagreeable I ever saw."——"Therefore I asked Collingwood to go with me, for his sentiments and mine are exactly similar."—Vide Charnock's life of Lord Nelson, appendix, page 26, *et seq.*

Such encomiums, considering from whom they proceeded, render all comment on the conduct of Lord Collingwood impertinent; and any farther attempt at eulogium ridiculous.

(To be continued.)

A SIMPLE TALE *of* LOVE.

(Continued from Page 333.)

"Bow'd by the hand of sorrow low;
No pitying friend to weep my woe;
Save her, who spar'd by Heav'n's decree,
Shall live to sigh, and think for me."

MRS. ROBINSON.

AFTER a long and mature consideration of the difficulties that involved him, Henry very prudently determined on the most promising method of crowning his efforts with success; which was to claim his property without delay, and then endeavour, as a man of fortune, to gain the consent of the haughty and imperious mother. With this intention he left his cottage early in the morning, and soon arrived at the village, where he had first stopt on his coming to Seldon Vale; having procured a guide and horses, he took the nearest road that led to the place of his nativity, and when he reached a small hamlet, within a mile of it, he dismissed his attendant, and proceeded on foot. Between this spot and his house, formerly lived the

father of the unfortunate Edwin, whose history is so nearly connected with that of our hero. When Henry beheld it, he sighed most piteously, and the remembrance of what had passed, renewed his former distress. As he stood gazing at the well-known mansion, which was separated from the road by a pond at the end of a luxuriant garden, he suddenly heard some heavy substance plunge into the water, and on turning to the spot he beheld a child struggling near the bank: Henry sprang, without hesitation, into the liquid element, and with much difficulty and danger rescued the terrified innocent from a watery grave. It was a beautiful boy, about four years old. Henry was not the only witness of the accident; for just as he had reached the bank, he was surrounded by the domestics, and by one who implored Heaven to shower down a thousand blessings on the preserver of his son. At the sound of this voice, Henry was greatly agitated, and on looking up he was astonished to behold his long-lamented friend Edwin!! "Heaven's! (cried Henry) what means all this? what strange delusion bewilders my senses! Is it not some phantom of the imagination, or do I really behold Edwin Seymour? the selfsame Edwin, whose life is dearer to me than my own, and for whom I have so long mourned in voluntary exile."—"Such is my name (answered Edwin), but how a humble peasant (as you appear to be) should express such an interest in my welfare, is a problem I can by no means solve. Pray who are you?" "Have you then forgotten (replied Henry) the friend and companion of your earliest youth? Has grief so preyed on my soul, as to effect a change in my very aspect, and render me a stranger even amongst my friends and relatives? Is Henry no longer"—"Gracious providence! (exclaimed Edwin) can it possibly be Henry? Oh yes it is, it must be the same (so saying he embraced him most affectionately). Yet what means this mystery! (continued Edwin), long have you been considered dead by all the neighbourhood! But let us to the house, for you are extremely wet, and in a sorry condition to give an explanation." They proceeded accordingly, and Henry being conducted to a chamber, changed his humble apparel for a suit of his friend's. On his return to the parlour, he gave Edwin a circumstantial account of every thing that had happened to him since the evening of their unfortunate mistake and separation; at the conclusion of which Edwin gratified Henry in a similar manner. His narrative was brief, merely stating, that he had soon recovered from his wound, after which he married the amiable Amelia; and that the child, whose life Henry had luckily preserved, was their eldest son; the darling of their heart. In addition to this he said, that a report of Henry's death had been carefully circulated and generally believed, by which artifice his uncle still enjoyed his estate.

Amelia,

Amelia, who had been busily employed about the rescued child, at last entered the room, to whom Henry repeated his strange history; and it appeared a fortunate circumstance that she was an intimate friend of the charming Maria's; and having heard, that very morning, of her arrival in the neighbourhood, Amelia proposed sending an invitation to her to visit them next day. Henry was transported with joy, and warmly applauded her scheme. After this happy discovery, Edwin accompanied him to the residence of his uncle. On their arrival, Henry demanded an interview, which was positively denied: and when he endeavoured to explain the mystery that enveloped his proceedings, he was treated as an infamous impostor even by the pampered menials that surrounded him. His indignation, however, being at length aroused by their effrontery, he brandished his stick, and having completely routed his dastardly opponents, entered his uncle's room in triumph. The old sinner, pale and trembling, and betraying all the horrors of conscious guilt, fell on his knees, and fearfully solicited his injured nephew's mercy and forgiveness.—"Repentance and restitution (exclaimed Henry), are all I require; I will therefore cast the veil of secresy over your black and innumerable crimes, on condition of your retiring for ever from my presence. Yes, go wretched man! and endeavour to make your peace with an offended God. Hasten, before the gates of mercy are closed by the strong hand of death; and let this be a warning to all such sinners, that, even in this world, they cannot elude the judgment and justice of omnipotence."

"Let wretches, loaded hard with guilt, as thou art,
Bow with the weight, and groan beneath the burden,
Creep, with the remnant of the strength they've left,
Before the footstool of the Heav'n they've injur'd."

OTWAY.

Though the evening was far advanced, and the fatigues of the day had quite exhausted him, Henry would not return with Edwin 'till he had visited an old steward of his father's, and put him in possession of the house; with unlimited powers to make such alterations in the establishment, as he should see necessary. Having taken these prudential steps, they returned exulting in the success of their enterprize; immediately on their arrival, Amelia met them with such a bewitching smile, that Henry foreboded some pleasant intelligence; nor was he mistaken in his presentiment, for his fair hostess informed him that Maria would be there the next morning; but that she did not know what a celestial interview awaited her. Indeed Amelia could not with safety have mentioned Edwin's name in

her letter, least it might fall in the way of the suspicious mother.

Here let us pause, whilst Henry blest
With hope's elysian beams,
Sinks on the downy lap of rest,
And love inspires his dreams.

Tho' innocence may pine awhile,
By angry storms o'ercast,
Heav'n still prepares a plausive smile
To solace it at last.

(This tale will form but one more article.)

Extracts from the Reports of the Committee for relieving the Distresses in Germany.

The Editor of the Entertainer thinks the publication of the following selections may be useful at the present juncture. It will shew the public what is to be expected if a French army should ever obtain footing here; and it might stimulate the opulent and humane to assist by their contributions the subscription that is now making. Messrs. Hankey and Co. Fenchurch-street, London, Messrs. Hoares, Fleet-street, and Smith and Holt, Old Bond-street, are appointed to receive them.

THE intelligence, which has lately been received from various parts of Germany, of the calamitous effects occasioned principally by the war, is so well authenticated, as to have a strong claim, not only on the commiseration of the British public, but also on its beneficence. In order to excite those sentiments and feelings, which lead to the exercise of correspondent liberality, it will only be necessary to state the substance of the information contained in several private letters, received from different persons upon the continent: One of them has the following expressions:

" *Heidelberg, October* 23, 1805.

" But six weeks ago, the Emperor Napoleon was at Boulogne; and now he is in the heart of Bavaria, at the head of 140, or 150,000 men; and the Austrian army is either killed, taken prisoners, or dispersed. How will this end! The whole of Germany, and the northern nations, are in arms: it is awful indeed! The violence of this tremendous storm falls upon our poor native country. Last summer there was such a scarcity

in several parts of Saxony, Lusatia, Silesia, Bohemia, Austria, and other neighbouring provinces, that many baked bran for bread, and used grass for vegetables; some people even went to those places where dead horses were thrown, and fed upon their flesh. Now, in addition to the usual population of the country, there are 150,000 men coming from the west, and more than 100,000 from the east, who must also be fed: and in the northern parts the harvest has again been very scanty. My very heart bleeds at the sight of this universal distress. O! that some relief might be afforded us! And perhaps our hopes of receiving some assistance from England may not be disappointed."

Another Letter from Stutgardt, dated October 14, 1805, *states as follows:*

"What would you feel, could you now see our city! It has quite the appearance of a camp, 20,000 French soldiers having been quartered upon us. We have two officers and twelve privates in our own house, and some of our neighbours have had from thirty to forty. Provisions became so scarce, that they were hardly to be procured. There are some districts in the vicinity of Ulm, in which every thing is entirely consumed; and we have an universal famine to fear. The vintage of this year has also failed!!"

From various quarters, it is stated, that foraging parties of soldiers have traversed the country in various directions, and at the point of the bayonet have compelled the farmers to thresh out their grain for the use of the French army;—the season too, has been so unfavourable, that the vintage has failed:—The poor inhabitants, in those parts, can now neither get bread for themselves or their children to eat. As to animal food, the armies have, in many places, cleared away most of the cattle. There are, therefore, numbers of very worthy families in the utmost distress, for want of the absolute necessaries of life.

It may be suitable to observe, that these communications have been made spontaneously, and are not the result of any previous investigation or inquiry. A vast accumulation of evidence on this subject probably exists in various hands, unknown and inaccessible to the writers of this address, and were it necessary to collect testimonies, on a more enlarged scale, from the suffering inhabitants of Germany, it is to be feared that the detail would prove too voluminous, as well as too affecting, for general perusal.

The information above stated was sufficiently interesting to induce a few friends to meet together, in order to consider

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of suitable means for mitigating, in some degree, these calamities; and it was the prompt and unanimous impression.

AT A MEETING HELD IN LONDON, NOVEMBER 22, 1805,

"That not a day should be lost in a case so pressing and urgent—It was therefore resolved,

"To guarantee the payment of a considerable sum of money, which was specified, (on the expectation of its being raised by subscriptions and public collections, in the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,) and to give orders, by the same night's post, to some confidential friends on the continent, to expend that amount, in the purchase of provisions, and otherwise, as they shall be directed."

The committee which was then formed, for the purpose of obtaining and administering relief to the sufferers, and for circulating the substance of the above intelligence, have now the satisfaction to state—That the public have testified their sympathy on this occasion in a degree highly honourable to their character; and by their liberality, have not only indemnified the committee for the amount of the guarantee above-mentioned, but enabled them to give directions to administer relief more extensively than in their first instructions. And on this principle it is their intention to continue to act, collecting from time to time such further information from Germany, as may enable them to proceed on a discreet and impartial plan of distribution among the sufferers.

In order to prevent the benevolence of the public, which has such a commendable object in view, from being intercepted, and falling into improper hands, much deliberation has been employed; and the precautionary instructions which have been given are such, as to leave no material cause for apprehension on this subject.

The committee might now invite the continued liberality of the public by many very forcible and affecting considerations, but they rather chuse to rely on the preceding statement of facts, persuaded that they are of themselves sufficient to produce a just and honourable impression. It will at once be recollected, that the objects to be relieved are Christians—and some of them the immediate subjects of our beloved sovereign: the principles, therefore, of piety and patriotism are alike their advocates.

London, December 23, 1805.

At subsequent meetings of the committee, the following intelligence was received, which, agreeably to the intimation before given, they now communicate to the public. The first in-

formation is derived from the Rev. C. E. A. Schwabe, minister of the German St. George's church, Goodman's-fields, London.

"*Ayliffe-street, December* 17, 1805.

"During my stay on the continent in the months of July, August, and September last, I witnessed, particularly in Saxony, affecting scenes of distress. Bread had risen to three times the price at which it had been a twelvemonth before, and in several places could scarcely be obtained. The governments were obliged to have the houses searched, and to force those who had a little store left to bring it to market. An article of food, to which nothing but the danger of being starved could induce men to have recourse, was given to the poor for bread. The country people cut down the corn before it was ripe, and braved the prohibition of the government with the exclamation, 'Give us bread for our families!' Distress led great numbers to commit various depredations. In one small town, Sondershausen, not less than sixty persons were, at the time when I passed through it, confined in dungeons for setting fire, in a state of despair, to several houses and villages. Contagious diseases were apprehended, and must I fear be the final issue of these terrible calamities.—Late accounts describe the present situation of the inhabitants of that country, as infinitely worse than it was during the summer. A friend of mine wrote a few weeks ago from Erfurt, as follows:

"We flattered ourselves, that our situation would be a little more tolerable after the harvest, but alas! the scarcity is far greater than it was, and an army of 50,000 men is collecting in our neighbourhood. Sometimes distress would tempt us to doubt of a divine providence. Yet it is our comfort that God still lives, and extraordinary evils lead often to extraordinary means of relief."

Another friend, of the same neighbourhood, writes:—"I assure you we are in a dreadful embarrassment, and I do not know what we are to do. The people are in despair. If things do not soon change, we shall have a general revolution, for the greater part have nothing to live on, and the little that is left, must be given to the military.

"C. E. A. SCHWABE."

The committee felt great interest in the above communication, and ordered some relief without delay.

(To be continued.)

FEMALE FASHIONS *for* MAY.

LONG DRESS.—A dress of fine muslin; the train long, and very richly embroidered; the sleeves very short, worked

worked to correspond with the bottom of the dress; the front and back quite plain, the latter very narrow and very low. A belt the same as the dress, fastened to the back, and tied in front. A scarf shawl, of Trafalgar net, over coloured silk. A turban hat of straw. York tan gloves.

SHORT-DRESS.—A dress of white muslin, made with a drapery, which comes from the left side of the waist, and terminates at the bottom of the dress, on the right side; the drapery and the bottom of the dress ornamented with lace, or rich work; the front made to fit the bosom quite tight, and trimmed to correspond with the dress. A spencer of coloured silk made quite plain. A cottage bonnet trimmed with May blossom.

RIDING HABIT.—The front made quite straight over the bosom, with false fronts, which terminate in a point, and hang down loose, the points ornamented with a tassel; others are made to button up quite close, but they have also the false fronts; the backs are very narrow, and the sleeves so large, as to be set in quite full. The most fashionable colours are the fawn, dark green, olive, and brown.—The turban and flat hats are much worn, as are also those of the complete man's shape.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.—The prevailing colours are the apple blossom, lilac, yellow, and blue. The cottage bonnet, with short dresses, are the most fashionable for walking. Lace, or work, is introduced into every thing; lace is of course preferred. Mantle shawls over coloured silk are already much worn. Mob caps lined with coloured silk, and ornamented with flowers, are still much used for undress. Flowers are also beginning to be prevalent in hats.

Judge Wilde's impressive Address to John Slater, convicted of the brutal Murder of his own Slave.

[From the Charleston Courier.]

JOHN SLATER—You have been convicted by a jury of your country, of the wilful murder of your own slave; and I am sorry to say, the short, impressive, uncontradicted testimony, on which that conviction was founded, leaves but too little room to doubt its propriety.

The annals of human depravity might be safely challenged for a parallel to this unfeeling, bloody, and diabolical transaction.

You caused your unoffending, unresisting slave, to be bound hand and foot, and by a refinement in cruelty, compelled his companion, perhaps the friend of his heart, to chop off his

his head with an axe; and to cast his body, yet convulsing with the agonies of death, into the water! And this deed you dared to perpetrate in the very harbour of Charleston, within a few yards of the shore, unblushingly in the face of open day! Had your murderous arm been raised against your equal, whom the laws of self-defence, and the more efficacious laws of the land unite to protect, your crime would not have been without precedent, and would have seemed less horrid. Your personal risk would at least have proved, that though a murderer, you were not a coward. But, you too well knew, that this unfortunate man, whom chance had subjected to your caprice, had not, like yourself, chartered to him by the laws of the land, the sacred rights of nature; and that a stern, but necessary policy, had disarmed him of the rights of self-defence: Too well you know, that to you alone he could look for protection; and that your arm alone could shield him from oppression, or avenge his wrongs; yet, that arm you cruelly stretched out for his destruction.

The counsel, who generously volunteered his services in your behalf, shocked at the enormity of your offence, endeavoured to find a refuge, as well for his own feelings as for those of all who heard your trial, in a derangement of your intellect. Several witnesses were examined to establish this fact; but the result of their testimony, it is apprehended, was as little satisfactory to his mind, as to those of the jury to whom it was addressed. I sincerely wish this defence had proved successful; not from any desire to save you from the punishment which awaits you, and which you so richly merit; but from the desire of saving my country from the foul reproach of having in its bosom so great a monster.

From the peculiar situation of this country, our fathers felt themselves justified in subjecting to a very slight punishment him who murders a slave:—Whether the present state of society requires a continuation of this policy, so opposite to the apparent rights of humanity, it remains a subject for the legislature to decide. Their attention would long ere this have been directed to this subject, but, for the honour of human nature, such hardened sinners as yourself are rarely found, to disturb the repose of society. The grand jury of this district, deeply impressed with your daring outrage against the laws, both of God and man, have made a very strong expression of their feelings on the subject to the legislature; and from the wisdom and justice of that body, the friends of humanity may confidently hope, soon to see this blackest in the catalogue of human crimes pursued with appropriate punishment.

In proceeding to pass the sentence, which the law provided for your offence, I confess, I never felt more forcibly the want of power to make respected the laws of my country, whose

minister I am. You have already violated the majesty of those laws—you have profanely pleaded the law under which you stand convicted, as a justification of your crime. You have held that law in one hand, and brandished your bloody axe in the other, impiously contending, that the one gave a licence to the unrestrained use of the other.

But, though you will go off unhurt in person, by the present sentence, expect not to escape with impunity. Your bloody deed has put a mark upon you, which, I fear, the good actions of your future life will not efface. You will be held in abhorrence by an impartial world, and shunned as a monster by every honest man—your unoffending posterity will be visited for your iniquity, by the stigma of deriving their origin from an unfeeling murderer—your days, which will be but few, will be spent in wretchedness—and, if your conscience be not steeled against every virtuous emotion; if you be not entirely abandoned to hardness of heart; the mangled, mutilated corpse of your murdered slave, will ever be present in your imagination, obtrude into all your amusements, and haunt you in the hours of silence and repose.

But should you disregard the reproaches of an offended world; should you bear, with callous insensibility, the gnawings of a guilty conscience;—yet remember! I charge you remember! that an awful period is fast approaching, and with you, is close at hand, when you must appear before a tribunal, whose want of power can afford you no prospect of impunity, when you must raise your bloody hands at the bar of an impartial, omniscient Judge?—Remember!—I pray you remember! whilst yet you have time, that God is just, and that his vengeance will not sleep for ever.

ANECDOTES *of the* IRISH PEASANTRY.

[From Cumberland's Memoirs.]

WHEN my father came down to Clonfert from Dublin, it was announced to O'Rourke (one of his labourers), that the bishop was arrived: the poor fellow was then in the act of lopping a tree in the garden; transported at the tidings, he exclaimed, "Is my lord come? Then I'll throw myself out of this same tree for joy." He exactly fulfilled his word, and laid himself up for months.

WHEN I accompanied my mother from Clonfert to Dublin, we passed the night at Killbeggan, where Sir Thomas Cuffe (knighted in a frolic by Lord Townshend) kept the inn. A certain Mr. Geoghegan was extremely drunk, noisy, and brutally troublesome

troublesome to Lady Cuffe, the hostess: Thomas O'Rourke was with us, and being much scandalized with the behaviour of Geogehan, took me aside, and in a whisper said, "'Squire, will I quiet this same Mr. Geogehan?" When I replied, "By all means, but how is this to be done?" Tom produced a knife of formidable length, and demanded, "Haven't I got this? and won't this do the job? and hasn't he wounded the woman of this inn with a chopping knife, and what is this but a knife, and won'dn't it be a good deed to put him to death like a mad dog? Therefore, 'Squire, do you see, if it will pleasure you and my lady there above stairs, who is ill enough, God he knows, I'll put this knife into that same Mr. Geoghegan's ribs, and be off the next moment on the grey mare; and isn't she in the stable? Therefore only say the word, and I'll do it?" This was the true and exact proposal of O'Rourke; and as nearly as I can remember I have stated it in his very words.

ARABIAN HORSES.

THE Arabian horses are divided into two great branches, the kadischi, whose descent is unknown, and the kochlani, of whom, it is said, a written genealogy has been kept for 2000 years. The kocklani are neither large nor handsome, but amazingly swift, and can pass whole days without food. The whole race is divided into several families, some of which have a higher reputation than others, on account of their ancient uncontaminated nobility.

The following is a specimen of the attestation or proof of the pedigree of one, the kochlani:

"In the Name of God the merciful,

"The cause of the present writing is, that we witness that the grey horse Derrish, of Mohammed Bey, is of the best breed of Nedgdee horses, whose mother is the grey mare Hadba the famous, and whose father is the bay horse Dahrouge, of the horses of the tribe Benihaled. We testify, on our conscience and fortune, that he is of the breed for stallions, concerning which the prophet has said "the true runners when they run strike fire, they grant prosperity until the day of judgement," and we have testified what is known unto us, and God knows who are true witnesses.

"Testifies its contents,

"Hamed il Shafei il Mansouri.
Moustafa, son of Abdelrahman il Kashubee,
Shaik Tousser, son of Shaik Daoud.
Abderahman, son of Sarban.
Moustafa il Umeri il Hellee.
Tousseff, son of Salman il Atarce.

"I Shaik Abdalla il Eubaybee say, that the testimonies of this authentic attestation are true, and I attest the same with my own hand and seal.

"SHAIK ABDALLA IL EUBAYBEE."

METHOD *of* PRESERVING *the* DEAD *at* PALERMO.

THERE is something peculiarly tender, yet solemn, in the method in which the inhabitants of Palermo preserve their dead. There is a vault in a capuchin convent, a mile distant from the town, consisting of four passages, each about 40 feet in length, into which the light of the sun is admitted by windows at the ends. Along the sides of these, are niches, in which the bodies are placed in an erect posture; the head, arms, and feet entirely destitute of covering. The skin remains entire, and assumes the appearance of pale-coloured leather; even the character of countenance is in some measure preserved. Suspended from the arm of each corpse, is an inscription certifying the name of the person, and the date of his decease. The bodies of distinguished personages are enclosed in appropriate chests, the keys of which are kept by the relations. No traveller gives a satisfactory account of the mode in which the bodies are prepared for this situation. It seems the process is completely effective, since there are now in the gallery, the bodies of two reputed saints, one of which has been there upwards of one hundred and fifty years, and the other above one hundred.

ANNUITIES.

THE celebrated Dr. Rush, in his Medical Observations, says, "That persons who live upon annuities in Europe, have been observed to be longer lived than any other people in equal circumstances. This is probably occasioned," continues the doctor, "by their being exempted, by the certainty of their subsistence, from the fears of want, which so frequently distract the minds, and thereby weaken the bodies of all people. Life-rents have been supposed to have the same influence in prolonging life. Perhaps the desire of life, in order to enjoy as long as possible that property which cannot be enjoyed a second time by a child or relative, may be another cause of the longevity of persons who live upon certain incomes. It is a fact, that the desire of life is a very powerful stimulus in prolonging it, especially when that desire is supported by hope. This is obvious to physicians every day. Despair of recovery is the beginning of death in all diseases."

Answer, by S. C. Moore, of Horswell House, to P. Gove's Rebus, inserted Feb. 24.

CORNWALLIS was a valiant man,
His deeds are worthy praise;
Inrol him on the page of fame,
His reputation raise.

☞ We have received similar answers from G. Coulman, of Broadhempton; and M. M. of Dartmouth.

Answer, by P. Codd, of Dean Prior, to T. Rutger's Charade, inserted March 3.

YOUR first and second, join'd aright,
SNUFF-BOX presents itself to sight.

*** We have received similar answers from H. Glasson, of Praze; Adrianus; S. C. Moore, of Horswell House; M. M. of Dartmouth; W. R. of Yealmpton; R. Perring, of Kingsbury; John Woodman, of North Curry; J. Salter, of Broadhembury; J. Colling, jun. of Dominick; Eliza; J. Scadding, of Wellington; R. Trewavas, of Mousehole; T. Bullock, of St. Columb; and J. Whittle, of Upway.

Answer, by J. Woodman, North Curry, to Palemon's Charade, inserted March 3.

YOUR first and second join'd will make
The plant I think you mean, MANDRAKE.

*** Similar answers have been received from T. Bullock, of St. Columb; W. Sparks, of Crewkerne; W. D. and W. Cross, of Bristol; Rusticus, near Hembury Fort; Adrianus; R. Perring, of Kingsbridge; J. Salter, of Broadmayne; J. Colling, jun. of St. Dominick; S. C. Moore, of Horswell House; W. Bickham, jun. of Ashburton; Eliza; T. Coumbe, of St. German's; H. Glasson, of Praze; J. Scadding, of Wellington; J. S. and H. Stoneman, of Exeter; and R. Trewavas, of Mousehole.

A CHARADE, *by R. I. P.*

MY first it is a Christian name;
My second's a relation:
My whole's a hero of great fame,
Rever'd by all the nation.

An ANAGRAM, *by J. Gidley, Jun. of Dean Prior.*

PART of a horse, if you transpose,
A well-known word you will disclose.

A CHARADE, *by W. Mann, of Plymouth-Dock.*

LONG may Britannia on my first
Maintain her sov'reign sway!
And to the wide-astonish'd world
Her matchless deeds display.
Behold my next, with garlands crown'd,
Advancing with her train,
Diffusing gay exuberance round
On valley, hill, and plain.
My whole's the most essential part,
Ye youths of wit sublime,
Within that masterpiece of art
Which marks the course of time.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

TO CONTEMPLATION.

HAIL, seraph of celestial birth!
Thou friend of angels and of men;
Descend from Heav'n, descend to earth,
And bless thy favourite seat again.

For now the honied spring leads forth
Her sweet, her gayly-smiling trains;
And the rude tyrants of the north
No more hold empire o'er the plains.

Loos'd from its adamantine bands,
The stream again translucent flows;
The tender bud its leaves expands,
And with the mildest radiance blows.

The hill, the forest, wood, and grove,
Their verdant liveries assume:
The touch of all-pervading love
Gives lustre to their nascent bloom.

O, goddess! come, and range with me
Along the smiling, daisied meads;
For, in thy train, sweet extacy
On thy celestial smile e'er feeds.

There to the sweetly-sounding lyre,
O tune an ever grateful lay:
Bid boldly strike the thrilling wire,
And every concord thee obey.

And as we slowly pass along,
Let us observe the change around;
And bid, in an immortal song,
The influence of the muse be found.

Sufficient theses may we find
T' employ the meditative maid,
Who in the chains of verse can bind
All that in nature is display'd.

Oft the fine petal of a flower
May wake the sweet, melodious lyre;
Oft may the verdure of the bow'r
The breast with heav'nly thoughts inspire.

A pebble, worm, or insect's wing
May much instruction kindly give:
Of rocks and stones the muse can sing,
And bid expression in them live.

Let us, to change the varying scene,
Review th' affairs of busy life;
Let dire misfortune intervene,
Domestic peace, domestic strife.

Let us ascend the realms on high,
And view the wonders of the air;

There trace the thunder thro' the sky,
And mark the lightning's vivid glare.

Above this elemental war
To fields of planetary day,
Let us urge on th' impetuous car,
And trace it to its fountain ray.

Mark! where the central sun is fix'd;
And the wild comet's awful flight;
How oft with other worlds they're mix'd,
And strike those worlds with dread affright.

Then, on imagination's wing,
Explore th' illimitable sky,
And of eternal wisdom sing,
As thro' infinity we fly.

Sherborne. B. A.

PUBLIC CHARITIES *in* ENGLAND *and* IRELAND.

AND here the muse, transported with the theme,
Sings her own isles, and vindicates their fame;
Search every district of the favour'd land,
Here domes aspire, there lofty mansions stand,
What prince dwells there? what haughty purse-proud lord,
Whose swell'd revenues load his pamper'd board?
No prince, no haughty purse-proud lord you find,
These domes receive—the poor, the maim'd, the blind!
Heaven's, what a cheering sight! The proud domain,
The splendid equipage, the gorgeous train,
The pomp of riches, and the pride of pow'r,
Are but the fleeting pageants of an hour;
But these are lasting, time shall ne'er efface
Such noble deeds; they reach the throne of grace,
Plead for each error, mitigate the stroke
Of heav'nly vengeance, and the curse revoke.
So the fair flow'rs that grace the vernal mead,
In motley stripes and varied dies array'd,
The gaudy tulip, and the lily pale,
The blushing rose that skirts the sloping vale,
Lose all their bloom, their odours all must die—
Tho' once so fair, they now neglected lie;
Whilst the tall oak, that rules his native wood,
Braves the hoarse tempest and the headlong flood;
For ages lives, and, awfully sublime,
Defies the rage of all-consuming time.

The MOTH.—*A* SONNET.

FOND, flutt'ring, insect, cease to urge thy fate,
Thy silken wing presenting to the flame;
Quick, let me save thee, ere it be too late,
Ere the false day devour thy filmy frame.

There, take thy chance, poor heedless innocent;
I catch thee, life and freedom to restore;
Go, rove at large th' unbounded element,
And live thy little life's short period o'er.

Ah! why, like thee, will man destruction brave,
With blind temerity provoke his doom;
Tread the kind lifted hand that wants to save,
And madly hasten where he must consume!

Scorch'd he returns, th' experienc'd ill defies,
Rushes on ruin, flutters, flames, and dies!